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LETTER DATED 14 APRIL 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AFGHANISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the message dated 13 April 1995 from the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan addressed to you.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ravan FARHADI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 13 April 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan addressed to the Secretary-General

The recent heavy artillery attacks and bombardments on Afghan soil by the armed forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, more specifically of the Russian Federation, caused deep distress among the Government and the people of Afghanistan. It is with great regret that I have to draw your special attention to these recent events.

Following repeated incursions into and bombing of the territory of Afghanistan, beginning on 9 April 1995 and continuing on 10 and 11 April, by the Air Force of the Russian Federation stationed in Tajikistan, on 12 April 1995, at 2.50 a.m. local time, jets of the Russian Federation Air Force bombarded the Darwaz, Baharak and Yaftal districts in Badakhshan Province and the Chah-é-Ab and Farkhar districts in Takhar Province, causing heavy casualties among the civilian population of the region.

On the morning of 13 April, at 6.30 a.m. local time, 12 jets of the Russian Federation Air Force brutally bombarded Taleqan City, causing 50 deaths among the civilian population - as far as is known to date - and wounded more than 100 persons. The search for the victims' bodies under the debris is still continuing. At the headquarters of the police force in Takhar, all logistical and security offices were destroyed. This bombardment, in which napalm and cluster bombs were used, was so severe and extensive that more than 100 shops of the bazaar of the capital of Takhar Province, as well as a floor and a cereal market, were completely demolished. Approximately 280 head of cattle were killed and heavy damage was inflicted on the civilian population.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan firmly believes that these attacks are blatant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of accepted principles of international law.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, which has repeatedly protested to the Russian Federation and to Tajikistan in the past, is once again reiterating its strong protest against these attacks and bombardments.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan sincerely declares that Afghanistan's attitude towards Tajik refugees is only characterized by humanitarian intentions. It is a moral obligation for the Afghans to spare no effort in providing humanitarian assistance to the Tajik refugees, with whom Afghans have historical, cultural, linguistic and religious ties.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan declares once again that the delay in the voluntary repatriation to Tajikistan of the Tajik refugees now in northern Afghanistan is attributable to their lack of confidence about their security in their own country. Past experience has proved to them that their life could subsequently be in danger if they agree to be repatriated under current circumstances.

The military events inside the borders of Tajikistan are an internal problem of that country.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan strictly respects the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and is observing this principle particularly in its relations with its neighbours.

We sincerely wish that peace and security will prevail in Tajikistan. We wish our frontier with Tajikistan to be a frontier of friendship, brotherhood and good-neighbourliness.

At this stage, when Afghan soil is under the heavy bombardment of the Russian Air Force, we urgently expect H.E. Ambassador Ramiro Píriz-Ballón, your Special Envoy for Tajikistan, who is now engaged in shuttle diplomacy in the region, to visit Kabul.

(Signed) Najibullah LAFRAIE
Minister of State
for Foreign Affairs